
NEWS From:

Congressman Mike Honda

FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA



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Honda, Congress Work to Aid Victims' Families, Act to Support Relief Efforts

WASHINGTON, DC-- In unanimous, bi-partisan votes in the House of Representatives today, Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) supported a package of legislation, H.R. 2882, to assist the families of victims of this week's tragic events, including measures to help families of fallen public safety officers and initiatives to promote patriotism in the wake of the terrorism waged on our nation. The package would also reduce the estate tax liability for all the families of those who died in Tuesday's terrorist attacks and would exempt the victim's family from any personal income tax liability for a lost family member.

"While today's relief package can never heal the psychological and emotional wounds of the families of the victims, this legislation will provide them with needed financial support," said Honda. **"By suspending taxes on FEMA assistance payments and compensation by airlines and by providing generous compensation to the families of officers killed in the line of duty, I am hopeful that we can help our fellow Americans begin to rebuild their lives in the wake of this national tragedy."**

Honda has also worked to keep his South Bay constituents informed about the latest developments in the national crisis and was one of the first Members of Congress to post a statement and a list of emergency telephone numbers and key information on his Congressional website www.house.gov/honda.

Honda, joined by many other Members of Congress and staff, today donated blood in the Capitol and has urged others to do the same. In addition to pushing for financial initiatives and donating blood, Honda today successfully supported a resolution encouraging Americans to demonstrate their unity for the nation by flying the American flag at homes, businesses, schools, and places of worship for the next thirty days.

"I am proud that the Congress has spoken with one voice today by giving assistance to families of the victims of the terrorist attacks, donating blood and fostering national unity" said Honda. **"This sends a powerful message to our friends and foes alike that, while terrorists may have shaken the foundations of our buildings, they will never shake the foundation of our democracy. Together we will mourn those lost, we will support the families of the victims, we will find those responsible and we will move on."**

Congress will next consider a substantial emergency relief package that may exceed \$20 billion to bolster the relief effort and help to rebuild the Pentagon.

